

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A magnetic drive for a switch, in particular for an electric switch (1) having an armature (26) which is linearly displaceable between two end positions of a space (21), with at least one moveable switch contact, having a shunt body (27) made of a magnetizable material and arranged at a distance from the armature (26) essentially on the axis of displacement of the armature (26), and having means (24, 25, 29, 31) for generating a magnetic field which exerts a retaining force on the armature (26) holding it in the end positions (28, 29), where the course of the flux lines of the magnetic field is altered by bringing the shunt body (27) together with the armature (26) so that the retaining force acting on the armature (26) is reduced, wherein a lock means for the shunt body (27), by which the shunt body (27) can be held in the end position (28) facing the former and can be released from the end position (28) by exerting a low force or power.

2. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 1, wherein the shunt body (27) can be locked in the end position (28) by means of mechanical holding devices (37-40, 42-45).

3. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 2, wherein the mechanical holding devices are provided in the form of a mechanical lock (37-40, 42-45) by means of which the shunt body (27) can be held in the end position (28), and a spring

force (41) acts on the shunt body (27) in the direction of the armature (26) after the lock has been opened.

4. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 2, wherein a mechanical threshold is provided as the mechanical holding device by means of which the shunt body (27) can be retained in the end position (28) and can be brought together with the armature (26) with a slight force or power.

5. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 1, wherein the shunt body (27) can be locked in the end position (28) by means of the magnetic holding means.

6. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 2, wherein the mechanical lock (37-40, 42-45) of the shunt body (27) has a guide rod (37) which is connected to the shunt body (27) and which is pivotably connected to a lever arm (38) which works together with a touch device.

7. (Previously Amended) The magnetic drive according to claim 1, wherein the electric switch (1) is closed in the end position of the armature (26) facing away from the shunt body (27), and it is open in the end position of the armature (26) facing the shunt body (27).

8. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 1, wherein the armature (26), the yoke (20) and the upper plate (33) are provided with slots to prevent eddy currents.

9. (New) A magnetic drive for an electric switch, the electric switch including an

armature linearly displaceable between two end positions of a space, the electric switch including at least one moveable switch contact, the magnetic drive comprising:

a shunt body made of a magnetic material and configured to be at a distance from the armature substantially on the axis of displacement of the armature;

at least one magnet and a coil configured to generate a magnetic field to exert a retaining force on the armature holding the armature in the end positions, such that the course of the flux lines of the magnetic field are altered by bringing the shunt body together with the armature such that the retaining force acting on the armature is reduced; and

a lock configured to hold the shunt body in the end position facing and such that the shunt body can be released from the end position by exerting a low force.

10. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 9, comprising:

one or more mechanical holding devices configured to lock the shunt body the end position.

11. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 10, wherein the mechanical holding devices include,

a mechanical lock configured to hold the shunt body in the end position, and

a spring configured to apply a force on the shunt body in the direction of the armature after the lock has been opened.

12. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 10, wherein the mechanical holding devices include a mechanical threshold configured to retain the shunt body in the end position and configured to bring the shunt body together with the armature with a slight force.

13. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 9, wherein the at least one magnet and the coil are configured to lock the shunt body in the end position.

14. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 10, wherein the mechanical holding devices include a guide rod connected to the shunt body and the guide rod is pivotably connected to a lever arm configured to operate together with a touch device.

15. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 9, wherein
the electric switch is configured to be closed in the end position of the armature facing away from the shunt body, and

the electric switch is configured to be open in the end position of the armature facing the shunt body.

16. (New) The magnetic drive according to claim 9, wherein the armature, the yoke and the upper plate include slots to prevent eddy currents.

END CLAIM LISTING